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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /141 W
---------- 069676
R 281638Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3489
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2852

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VT, LY, XF
SUBJECT: JALLOUD'S CONVERSATION WITH POPE PAUL

REF: ROME 2640 (NOTAL)

1. LIBYAN PM JALLOUD HAD 90-MINUTE PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL MORNING FEB. 25. ARCHBISHOP BENELLI, VATICAN "DEPUTY" SECRETARY OF STATE, INFORMED US THAT LIBYAN INSISTENCE ON USE OF ARABIC LANGUAGE CREATED NEED FOR DOUBLE INTERPRETING AND THIS SOLE REASON FOR UNUSUALLY LONG AUDIENCE; IT NORMALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABOUT HALF HOUR. BENELLI CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS "TOUR D"HORIZON" WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON MIDDLE EAST AND JERUSALEM, AND STATUS OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LIBYA. QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS NOT TOUCHED UPON.

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2. BENELLI SAID JALLOUD EXPRESSED STANDARD ARAB HARD LINE ON

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JERUSALEM, DEMANDING FULL RETURN TO ARAB SOVEREIGNTY. POPE
INFORMED HIS GUEST THAT VATICAN HAD CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS WHICH IT
BELIEVES SHOULD BE MET IN JERUSALEM--INDIVISABILITY OF OLD CITY;
RIGHT OF MEMBERS OF ALL THREE MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS TO LIVE,
WORK AND FEEL COMPLETELY AT HOME IN HOLY CITY; INADEQUACY
OF IDEA MERELY TO RETURN INDIVIDUAL SHRINES TO RELIGIONS CONCERNED.
POPE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE NO DOUBT NUMEROUS FRAMEWORKS IN
WHICH THESE REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET RUNNING ALL THE WAY FROM INTER-
NATIONALIZATION THROUG "CORPUS SEPARATUM" TO SOME SPECIAL
STATUTE. IT IS UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL ALWYERS TO WORK OUT
DETAILS. HOLY SEE DOES NOT WISH TO ENTER QUESTION OF JERUSA-
LEM'S SOVEREIGNTY AND DEFINITELY IS NOT PRESSING FOR CREATION
OF VATICAN CITY-LIKE SOLUTION.

3. POPE EXPRESSED TO JALLOUD HIS SORROW OVER PLIGHT OF CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY IN LIBYA AND SAID THAT ONE OF HIS MOST FERVENT HOPES
IS THAT MEMBERS OF THREE GREAT MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS CAN LIVE
HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER THROUGHOUT WORLD. HE NOTED THAT CHRISTIANS
AND MOSLEMS LIVE AS BROTHERS IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AND HE MADE
STRONG APPEAL TO JALLOUD FOR LIBYA ALSO TO BECOME AN EXEMPLARY
COUNTRY WHEREIN THIS BROTHERHOOD COULD BE REALIZED. JALLOUD
JUSTIFIED EARLIER ATTACKS AGAINST CATHOLIC CHURCH AS A REGRET-
TABLE BUT INEVITABLE ASPECT OF EARLY STAGES OF LIBYAN NATIONAL-
ISM AND TOLD POPE THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SEE THAT CATHOLIC
CHURCH'S POSITION IN LIBYA IS IMPROVED. HE MADE NO SPECIFIC
COMMITMENTS, HOWEVER, AND BENELLI NOT SANGUINE THAT "MUCH WILL
RESULT FROM NICE WORDS."

4. POPE ALSO MADE PLEA FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUFFERING
BECAUSE OF RISING PRICES AND SAID HE HOPED LIBYA WOULD RESPOND
GENEROUSLY TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. JALLOUD SAID ARABS
CONSIDERING INCREASED AID TO LDC'S.

5. JALLOUD PARTY FIRST RAISED QUESTION OF SEEING POPE TO
ITALIAN PROTOCOL OFFICE FEB. 22. ON FARNESINA INSTRUCTIONS,
ITALIAN EMBASSY TO HOLY SEE RELAYED REQUEST TO VATICAN SAME
AFTERNOON. BENELLI'S PERSONAL FEELING IS THAT LIBYANS,
REALIZING THAT MOST ARAB STATES HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH HOLY
SEE AND, MOREOVER, THAT MANY ARAB LEADERS HAVE RECENTLY VISITED
VATICAN WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED WITH CORDIAL UNDERSTANDING,
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DECIDED IT WOULD BE POINTLESS FOR LIBYA NOT TO GET A PIECE OF
THE ACTION. BENELLI SAID LIBYANS PROBABLY FEEL THEY MOVING
SOMEWHAT TO SIDELINES IN M.E. NEGOTIATIONS AND THEY DOING
WHATEVER THEY CAN TO GAIN PRESTIGE. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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